

In the Drawings

In FIG. 3, “ 361’ ” is changed to “ 360’ ,” as shown in the accompanying annotated drawing sheet.

In FIG. 4D, “ 332” is changed to “ 330,” as shown in the accompanying annotated drawing sheet.

Attachments:

Annotated drawing sheets

Replacement drawing sheets

REMARKS

The Examiner is thanked for the thorough examination of this application. The Office Action, however, tentatively rejected all claims 1-8. Applicant has amended independent claim 1 so as to clearly define over the cited art of record, and Applicant respectfully requests that the rejections be reconsidered and withdrawn.

Applicant has also made a minor amendment to the specification to correct a typographically error, and has also made cosmetic amendments to certain figures. No new matter is introduced by the amendments made herein.

Discussion of Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. 102(b)

Claims 1-8 were tentatively rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as allegedly anticipated by the acknowledged prior art of Figs. 1-2E.

The Office Action stated that “Regarding claim 1, the acknowledge prior art discloses in e.g., Fig. 2E an interconnect structure, comprising: a substrate (100; page 2, line 15); a first metal line (110; page 2, line 12) disposed on the substrate; a first insulating layer (120; page 2, line 28) disposed on the substrate, covering the first metal line (see Fig. 2E); a second metal line (130; page 2, line 13) disposed on the first insulating layer; a second insulating layer (140; page 3, line 4) covering the second metal line; ITO (indium tin oxide) (162; page 2, line 17) wiring electrically connecting the first and second metal lines (see Fig. 2E); and a passivation structure (151 and 152; page 2, lines 17 and 18) disposed on the second insulating layer with an opening (at the opening between the elements 151 and 152) therein to expose and enclose the ITO wiring (see Fig. 2E).” Applicant has amended claim 1 to address the rejection and clearly define over the teachings cited by the Office Action.

Specifically, as amended herein, claim 1 recites:

1. An interconnect structure, comprising:
 - a substrate;
 - a plurality of first metal lines*** disposed on the substrate;
 - a first insulating layer disposed on the substrate, covering the plurality of first metal lines;
 - a plurality of second metal lines*** disposed on the first insulating layer;
 - a second insulating layer covering the plurality of second metal lines;
 - a plurality of ITO (indium tin oxide) wirings*** electrically connecting the plurality of first and second metal lines respectively; and
 - a passivation structure disposed on the second insulating layer with ***a plurality of openings; wherein each ITO wiring is isolated and enclosed by each opening of the passivation structure respectively.***

(Emphasis Added). Claim 1 patently defines over the cited art for at least the reason that the cited art fails to disclose the features emphasized above.

It is clear that the interconnect structure of claim 1, as amended, comprises a plurality of first metal lines, a plurality of second metal lines, a plurality of ITO (indium tin oxide) wirings, and a plurality of openings; wherein ***each ITO wiring is isolated and enclosed by each opening of the passivation structure respectively.*** However, the acknowledge prior art does not disclose each ITO wiring is isolated and enclosed by each opening of the passivation structure respectively. Simply stated, these features are not disclosed in the admitted art, which was relied on by the Office Action.

Therefore, claim 1 is in condition for allowance. Insofar as claims 2-8 depend on claim 1, claims 2-8 are also allowable.

No fee is believed to be due in connection with this amendment and response. If, however, any fee is deemed to be payable, you are hereby authorized to charge any such fee to Deposit Account No. 20-0778.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Daniel R. McClure", is written over a horizontal line.

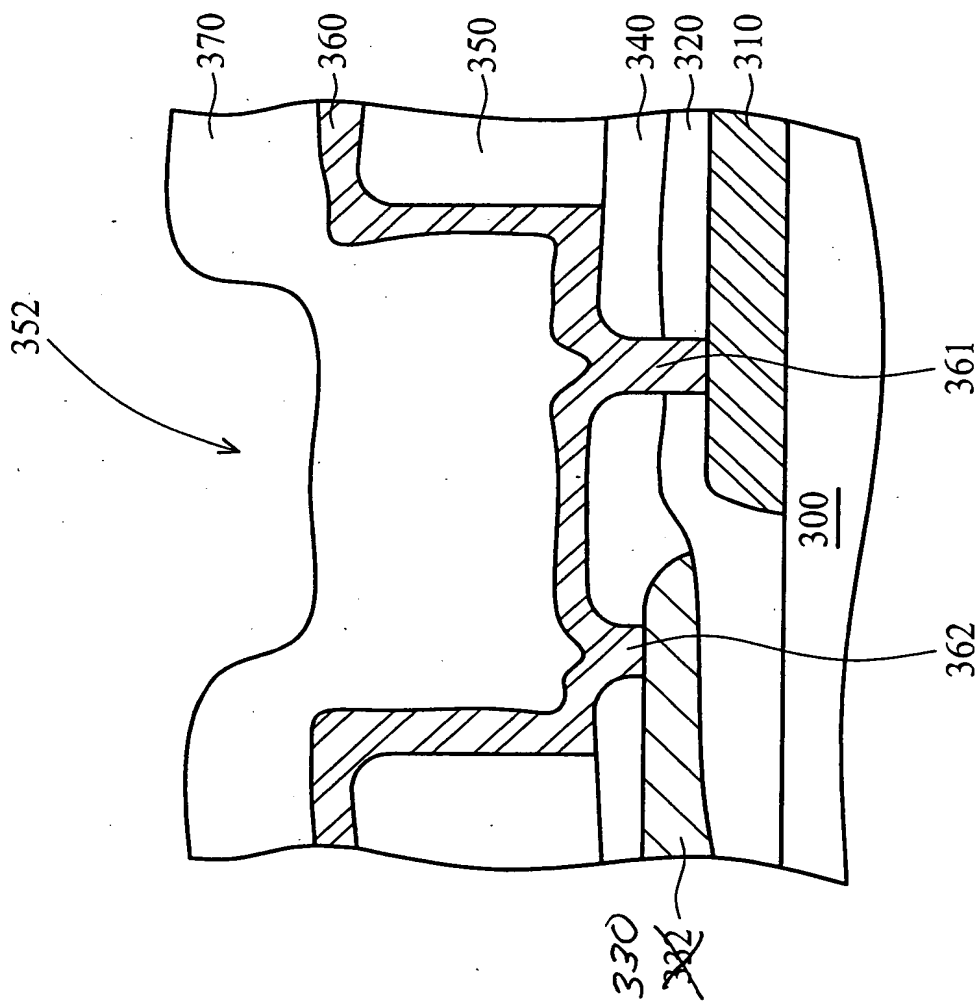
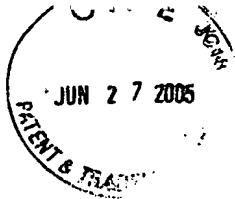
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Annotated Sheet



II

FIG. 4D